Northwest Area Coordination Center
Morning Report

Date: 02/21/03 Time: 0730 National Preparedness: 2

PNW Area Preparedness

Today: 1 Three Day: 1 Ten Day: 1 Thirty Day: 1

National Current Situation

Support continues to the Columbia Recovery and Newcastle incidents.

Pacific Northwest Situation

Rain and cooler temperatures the past week produced a slight increase in the Oregon snowpack. The Oregon statewide snowpack is now 52% of average, a 3% increase since Feb. 6. Snowpacks in the Oregon river basins range from 29% in the Mt. Hood area to 63% in the Grande Ronde basin. Meanwhile, Washington's snowpack has dropped 3% to 60% of average. The snowpack remains far below what it was in 2002 and near to below what is was during the 2000-01 drought year. Oregon's 52% snowpack is below the 61% on this date in 2001 (see attachment). Although the snowpack will continue to increase through April 1, it will be nearly impossible to accumulate enough snow to reach normal conditions in the next five weeks. Thus, a low snowpack during the 2002-2003 winter will likely become a certainty.

The snowpack is just one of many factors that influences the severity of the summer fire season. Comparing fire and snowpack records back to 1970 shows there is only about a 15 percent chance of having a severe fire season when the snowpack is above 100 percent and about a 50 percent chance when it is below. However, this year is unusual because contrary to the meager snowpack, lower elevation precipitation remains above normal in many areas. Normally, the snowpack and low elevation precipitation track together, both below or above normal. Lower elevation precipitation is well above normal in southwestern Oregon and eastern Washington due to a wet December and January. Central and northeastern Oregon remain the driest areas in the Northwest with 75-90% of normal precipitation since the water year began on October 1. (see attached Water Year graphic). Looking at our records, the 2 years that track best with this year sofar are 1970 and 1984. 1970 was a very active fire season with large fires in the Wenatchee/Okanogan area. 1984 was rather benign with the largest fires in grass and sage in southeast Oregon. So at this point, 2003 could go either way. At it turned out, the difference between 1970 and 1984 was that April through June was dry in 1970 and wet in 1984. Statistics show June rain is a important factor in fire season severity in combination with winter snowpack, drought and snowmelt date.

Portland – Use links from the Portland Fire weather Office to see forecasts from Pendleton, Medford, Spokane and Seattle.

Northwest Area Fire Activity Summary						
Agency	Suppression Fire Activity		Prescribed Fire Activity		Wildfire for Resource Benefit Activity	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Bureau of Indian Affairs						
Bureau Land Management						
US Fish & Wildlife						
National Park Service						
US Forest Service						
Federal Totals						
ORS State of Oregon						
WAS State of Washington						
Totals All Agencies						

NW Area Type I Incident Management Team Rotation

National Type I Incident Management Team Rotation

1 Northern Rockies
2 Southwest
3 Southwest

Team	IC	Incident	Dispatch Date
Team 2	Lohrey	Columbia	2/17

Temporary Flight Restrictions:

For TFR Information, Please go to http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/fire/aviation/airspace

Helicopters						
Tail#	**Model**	**Type**	**Unit**	**Home Base**	**Status**	**Raps Available**

Smokejumper Aircraft		
Type	**No.**	**Status**
Sherpa	J73	
CASA212	J07	

Smokejumpers	
Base	**Available**
Redmond	
NCSB	

Air Tankers					
Tail#	**Type**	**Unit**	**Home Base**	**Day Off**	**Status/Location**
T-62					
T-66					

Lead Planes/Pilots					
Pilot Call	**A/C No.**	**Pilot Name**	**Home Base**	**Day(s) Off**	**Status**
Lead 6-2		Kastner(T)	RDM	Tu-Wed	
Lead 6-3		Fisher	RDM	Sun-Mon	
Lead 6-4		Vail	RDM	Sat-Sun	
Lead 6-5		House	RDM	Fri-Sat	
Lead 6-6		Bak (T)	RDM	Thu-Fri	
Lead 6-9		Tackman	EAT	Thu-Fri	

Interagency Hot Shot Crews	Home Unit	Days Off	Date Disp.	Status
Entiat	WEF	Fri-Sat		Out of Service
LaGrande	WWF	Fri-Sat		Out of Service
Union	WWF	Fri-Sat		Out of Service
RogueRiver (T)	RRF	Sat-Sun		Out of Service
Winema	WNF	Fri-Sat		Out of Service
ZigZag (T)	MHF	Fri-Sat		Out of Service
BakerRiver	MSF	Fri-Sat		Out Of Service
WarmSpgs	WSA	Sat-Sun		Out Of Service
Prineville	OCF	Sun-Mon		Out of Service
Vale (T)	VAD	Sun-Mon		Out of Service
Redmond	DEF			Out of Service
Wolf Creek	UPF			Out of Service

Northwest Fire Danger Rating Indices

Fire danger rating indices are intended to give a **calculated** value of NFDRS indexes associated with the development of large fires. These weighted averages, taken at selected RAWS stations in 12 climate areas in the NW Area, represent very large sub-geographical areas and are not site-specific. Go to the Fire Danger Analysis link on the Decision Support page for map and graphs.
Fire Danger Rating Areas are NOT the NW Area Preparedness zones. Preparedness boundaries are shown in the NW Mob Guide, Chapter 20.
ERC Values are for Fuel Model G.
Breakpoints represent the thresholds of the selected component or index for all days between 1986 - 2000 with large (100 acre timber/300 acre range) fires. The size of large fires varies, but is generally 100 acres east of the Cascades and 50 acres west. Large range fires are 300 acres. Any day having both Fire Danger indices in the **Yellow** **and** a trigger event, such as high winds, lightning, Haines 6 or heavy public use have moderate probability of getting a large fire. Days in the **Red** **and** a trigger event have a high probability of getting a large fire, and under those circumstances can be interpreted as being CRITICAL fire days.
When less than 50% of the RAWS in a SIG report, no current values will be displayed below.

Values in YELLOW or RED exceed breakpoint values

Fire Danger Rating Area	Stations Reporting	Average ERC this date	Today's Forecasted ERC	Breakpoint ERC	Average 100hr this date	Today's Forecasted 100 hr	Breakpoint 100 Hr
W1– NW Washington				>17			<14%
W2– SW WA/NW OR				>23			<16%
W3– Oregon Coast				>23			<13%
W4– SW Oregon				>43			<11%
C1 - Wenatchee Area				>53			<10%
C2SoCent.WA/NoCentOR				>52			<11%
C3 – So Oregon				>53			<11%
E1 – Okanogan Area				>39			<11%
E2 – NE Washington				>44			<12%
E3 – Columbia Basin				>54			<16%
E4 – NE Oregon				>47			<10%
E5 – SE Oregon				>67			<11%

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